

## FACTS:

- ◆ The new toll-free phone line is working non-stop. People are calling in for advice and prayer from all corners of Ukraine.
- ◆ Hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian workers came home from Italy and Spain, leaving their jobs behind and bringing the virus with them.
- ◆ We added 200 hours of programming a month devoted to providing hope, peace, and joy, in the midst of the depressing health and economic crises in Russia and Ukraine. Dozens receive salvation every week.
- ◆ Several FEBC workers and volunteers have had the virus; all have recovered fully and continue to minister.
- ◆ Demand for psychological help increased by 55 percent in the past three months in Russia.

## Unprecedented openness:

### COVID-19 and the new openness for the Gospel

Our broadcasters today are busier than ever before. Listeners are crying out for help, and we are there to provide hope and share the love of Jesus.

“I survived the coronavirus, and I must tell you that **I survived because of your programs,**” wrote one listener. “FEBC was my only source of hope.” That’s one of the many encouraging responses we receive. For each one like this one, many more are cries of desperation:

“I lost my job and have a fever. I am afraid to step out of my apartment or go to the hospital. What do I do?”

“I never realized that I was so afraid to die... is that even normal? I am praying with you every day now.”

“My kids are scared - what do I tell them?”

Those are the kinds of responses that we receive by the hundreds every day.

In response, we increased the number of programs that provide hope and spiritual support and we opened a new online and on-the-air prayer program. Thousands are responding.

#### **Hundreds have accepted Christ!**

God is opening doors during this time of pandemic. People are open to spiritual help.

We are grateful for your prayers and financial support.

**This is the harvest time for us!**



At FEBC-Russia, we take a team approach to leadership. Left to right: Oleg Cherny, Dr. Victor Akhterov, Rev. Igor Popov, Rev. Alexey Vlasikhin

# OUR LISTENERS RESPOND:

*It is a great blessing for us to see the Holy Spirit performing His work in the lives of our listeners as they respond to God's call. Orphans are being adopted. People are receiving answers to prayers. Lives are being saved. Here are some of those stories:*

**Elena** and her husband had been volunteering in an orphanage but were hesitant to take the step of adoption. After listening to FEBC for a while and talking to the host of our program on adoption, they felt confident enough to try fostering. Soon the adoption papers were being filed!

“We could have spent our whole lives being afraid to take the next step. Your advice, your attitude, and your prayers really did wonders. We're parents now thanks to you!”



I love Happiness

**Olga** from Happiness, Ukraine called to say: “I wanted to tell you how God answered our prayers! We lived in the rebel-occupied zone in eastern Ukraine in a cramped apartment. We were surrounded by gunfire, and on top of all that, I became pregnant at 43! Frightened, I called you and you prayed for me. God turned everything around! My family moved to a city called Happiness, where my husband was offered a job—Happiness, can you believe it? We are no longer

surrounded by constant gunfire, though we can still hear it in the distance. I gave birth to a healthy baby, and I am now back to work. All glory to God!

“Luckily, your signal reaches us in Happiness, so we can continue to listen to the program!”

A young girl named **Dasha** called to tell our counselors that she listened to our children's program about God. “I really liked that show. I started reading my Bible!” The counselor talked with her about the Bible and told her about the love of God and Jesus. That day Dasha prayed for the first time and accepted Jesus.

**Georgiy**, 57, called from Nizhniy Tagil, Russia. This is the Ural Mountains area of the country.

“You saved my life, friends. I was ready to commit suicide after my wife left me. I was about to crash my car into a mountain rock, but I slammed on my brakes at the last moment and came to a stop a few feet from the rock.

“As I took out my phone with shaking hands, I accidentally opened my social media account. There was your broadcast! I sat and watched it for two hours and, as I watched, I realized that I wanted to live. I started to comment on the



broadcast and some people even prayed with me. Nothing can compare to the feeling when someone prays to God for you.

**“With shaking hands, I accidentally opened my social media app. There was your broadcast!”**

“After I explained what had happened, the host told me that if there was no one around to help, no friends or family, that he and the other listeners would be my support group.

“I have been watching these broadcasts every day. You have kept me alive.”

Georgiy has been listening to FEBC programs for a month now. He is full of hope. He is beginning to pray, but is yet to commit his life to Christ.

Please support Georgiy and thousands of listeners like him by your prayers.

**Dr. Victor Akhterov**  
**Director, FEBC-Russia &**  
**Ukraine**



**“We focus on one thing: inspiring people to follow Jesus.”**

**Q: What are you passionate about?**

Our mission expresses it best: We proclaim the Good News by media to inspire people to follow Jesus Christ.

**Q: Growing up in the atheistic Soviet Union - what was the most difficult part?**

Being the only Christian in my school, maybe. Or spending my teen years without my Dad, who was imprisoned for his faith. I don't know. You don't think about these things as you are growing up, it's simply your reality.

In a way, it was fun to be standing up to the system – having secret prayer meetings in the forest, etc. We rebelled against the godless government, not our parents.

The painful reality for me was that for a variety of reasons, the church could not effectively preach the Good News to the people around us. Most new church members were children from Christian families.

# Four Questions:

Today, the church in Russia and Ukraine is still struggling in sharing Christ with “outsiders.”

**Q: What is FEBC doing to help the Church?**

We lead by example. We talk about Jesus on the air, in thousands of media conversations every month.

Consider a recent conversation on FEBC Russia's broadcast:

The host invites listeners to ask questions concerning family situations related to the coronavirus.

A young man who lost his job sent in his story - he is desperate, battling serious depression.

For the next 10 minutes, our broadcaster talks about this, emphasizing Biblical truths:

- Our intrinsic value as human beings, created by God
- Christ who suffers with us
- The true source of joy and genuine compassion...

As the broadcast is going on, online conversation explodes on several social networks.

People are sharing their opinions, and our numerous volunteers are sharing Christ.

As a result, the young man who shared the story, as well as many people who are talking about this online, **are invited to local churches by our volunteers. We do it together.**

**Q: So you work together with the Church, with help from their volunteers?**

Yes, in the past year, we've been increasing the number of online conversations.

When COVID-19 hit, we opened a toll-free helpline.

We were not ready for the massive number of heartbreaking calls.

>>> People who are on the verge of taking their lives

> Children who want to know what they are living for

> Wives of abusive husbands

> Listeners who lost their jobs

These are the situations that we are dealing with every hour.

**We are bringing more counselors on board despite budget cuts.**

More people came to know Christ in the past six months than in the past three years. God is working through FEBC, and people are responding by committing their lives to Him.

*In the meantime, three large media ministries stopped working in Russia and Ukraine.*

So, we must do more, and we will. I want our partners to share in our joy as they see their contributions bringing amazing results.

# NEW PROJECTS AND PRAYER NEEDS

## Engaging the Ukrainian Church in Online Evangelism

During the COVID-19 crisis, many churches have started to experiment with online ministries and discovered that they are lacking expertise on two levels: technological and cultural. Many came to FEBC-Ukraine for help.

We are responding by creating an unprecedented program to help train volunteers in 150 churches throughout Ukraine. They will be trained in being effective evangelists in the digital age.

Using our extensive experience, we will help Christ-centered churches by:

- Training their **volunteers**, teaching them how to use online tools to effectively reach their neighbors.



## DAILY PRAYER CALENDAR: FEBCEURASIA.ORG

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- Providing training to **church leaders** and volunteers on how to talk to non-Christians online and how to lead them to come to their churches. Most Christians do not know how to share their faith effectively in this new environment.

- Creating multiple **tools**, such as evangelistic videos, surveys, radio programs, questionnaires, etc., that will be adaptable for individual church use.

Through this project, we will help evangelical churches reach more than **1 million** of their neighbors. Please pray for the success of this project.

## Effective Follow-Up Tools

One result of COVID-19 is the fact that many people are now more comfortable talking to others online – from students and teachers to office workers and grandmas.

We are using this trend to intensify our one-on-one online counseling. Dozens are being helped in Russia, Belarus, and Moldova every day. Some find it easier to write, others prefer online group meetings such as webinars, still others want to use videoconferencing. We use all these tools to tell people that Jesus loves them.

In the meantime, in Ukraine, we are using a phone helpline that we advertise on the air and online. Last month 81 people accepted Christ as our counselors were helping them solve their problems. This is a new ministry and it is growing.



## YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE

If you'd like to support FEBC's follow-up ministry, please contribute to account **#68076**.